

AB

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

(Page 1)

APR 17 2002

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled SPEECH PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

the specification of which is attached hereto was filed on 25/02/02 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. 10/054856 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application of which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	<u>(Yes/No)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
----------------	------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number:

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
Customer Number: 05514

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor Yuan SHAO
Inventor's signature Yuan SHAO

Date 22nd March 2002 Citizen/Subject of CHINA

Residence United Kingdom

Post Office Address c/o Canon Research Centre Europe Ltd, The Braccans, London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 2XH, United Kingdom.